

Remarks

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 14 and 16 are rejected, while claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15 and 18-20 are objected to. By this paper, claims 1 and 16 are amended, claims 2, 3, 10-15 and 18 are canceled, and new claims 21-30 are added. Based on the following, consideration of the amended and new claims, and reconsideration of the remaining claims, are requested.

Specification

By this paper, paragraph 20 is amended to correct a typographical error in which the word "converter" was inadvertently spelled "convertor" in three places.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,618,243 (Kondo et al.). By this paper, claim 2 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. Also by this paper, claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, claim 1 is amended to include all of the limitations of claim 3, which was objected to by the Examiner. Claim 3 depended directly from claim 1 with no intervening claims; therefore, amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,199,001 (Ohta et al.). Claim 6 depends directly from amended claim 1, which, as explained above, is believed to be allowable. Therefore, claim 6 is also believed to be allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 10, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0158511 (Baumgartner et al.). By this paper, claims 10 and 14 are canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Also by this paper, claim 16 is amended to include all of the limitations of claim 18, which was objected to by the Examiner. Claim 18 depended directly from claim 16 with no intervening claims; therefore, amended claim 16 is believed to be allowable.

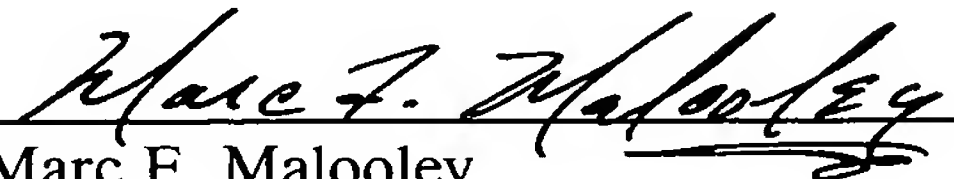
Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15 and 18-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, claim 1 is amended by this paper to include all of the limitations of claim 3, and claim 16 is amended to include all of the limitations of claim 18. These two independent claims are believed to be allowable. In addition, claims 21-30 are added by this paper. Claim 21 is an independent claim which contains all of the limitations of claim 1 and objected-to claim 4. Therefore, claim 21 is also believed to be allowable. Each of the remaining dependent claims 22-30 contains limitations found in, or previously found in, other dependent claims. Moreover, claim 21 is the base claim for claims 22-30; therefore, each of these dependent claims is believed to be allowable.

Based on the foregoing, allowance of each of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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